

REMARKS

Claims 1, 2, 5, and 7 have been amended to incorporate the subject matter of claim 17. Claim 17 has been cancelled.

The present amendment contains no new matter.

The Rejections

Claims 1-14, 17, and 20-23 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as anticipated by Sato (U.S. Patent 5,648,159). Claims 15-16, 18-19, and 24-40 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Sato in view of Kimura et al. (U.S. Patent 6,207,345) (“Kimura”).

In view of the present amendment, Applicants respectfully traverse the present rejections and request reconsideration and allowance of the remaining claims for the following reasons.

Applicant's Arguments

Sato teaches a dry resist. Contrary to the Examiner's assertion (Office Action dated October 7, 2003, page 3, lines 6-8), Sato does not teach a bisphenol A type (meth)acrylate compound as disclosed in claims 1, 2, 5, and 7 of the present invention. Instead, the Sato teaches compositions including: methyl methacrylate/acrylonitrile/acrylated glycidyl acrylate copolymer; methyl methacrylate/2-hydroxyethylacrylate copolymer; triethylene glycol acetate; tert-butylanthraquinone; 2,2'-methylene-bis(4-ethyl-6-tert-butylphenol); ethyl violet and methyl ethyl ketone (col. 8, lines 55-65). No “bisphenol A type (meth)acrylate” compound is disclosed, particularly one “having at least one polymerizable ethylenically unsaturated group.” For example, the 2,2'-methylene-bis(4-ethyl-6-tert-butylphenol) of Sato is generally used as an antioxidant and stabilizer and has no polymerizable ethylenically unsaturated groups in the molecule. Because Sato fails to teach, or even suggest, a bisphenol A type (meth)acrylate compound as disclosed in claims 1, 2, 5, and 7 of the present invention, Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection of claims 1, 2, 5, and 7, and their dependent claims.

Moreover, Sato fails to teach, or even suggest, either the elements pertaining to contact angle as disclosed in claim 7, or “a total height of winding deviation at the edge surface of the photosensitive element roll after naturally dropping the photosensitive element roll five times from the height of 10 cm to the collision surface so that the axis direction of

the core becomes perpendicular to the collision surface is 1 mm or less” as disclosed in claim 21. Therefore Applicants respectfully traverse the rejections of claims 7 and 21.

Kimura teaches a photosensitive element comprising a first film, a photosensitive layer, and a second film. Kimura fails to teach, or even suggest, fine particles formed on the opposite surface of the support film to which the photosensitive resin composition layer is formed. Kimura also fails to teach a photopolymerizable compound having at least one polymerizable ethylenically unsaturated group in the molecule which mainly comprises a bisphenol A type (meth)acrylate compound. Moreover, Kimura fails to teach the elements of unevenness, mathematical average roughness (R_a), or maximum height (R_y) on the side surface of the wiring pattern, as disclosed in claims 24-40 of the present invention. The portions of the reference apparently cited by the Examiner as teaching these elements (Office Action dated October 7, 2003, page 5, lines 8-11) instead teach film thickness, and processing methods for the film of Kimura. Therefore Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection of claims 24-40.

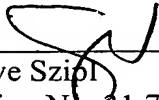
Moreover, the results obtained from the present invention are superior and unexpected. These results are set forth in the Specification on p. 40, line 33 to p. 50, lines 27. For example, Table 2 on page 44 shows that, the present invention, compared to the comparative examples, possesses: lower haze, better dimensional stability, superior contact angle ratio, equal or better resolution, better adhesive properties, and superior side wall flatness. Thus the present specification contains ample objective evidence of non-obviousness, sufficient to rebut any alleged prima facie obviousness.

Conclusion

For all of the above reasons, claims 1-40 are in condition for allowance. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the application, and a prompt notice of allowance is earnestly solicited.

Questions are welcomed by the below-signed attorney for the Applicants.

Respectfully submitted,
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